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DOCKET NO. 17-12-03RE08

PURA INVESTIGATION INTO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANNING OF THE ELECTRIC
DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES – RESILIENCE AND RELIABILITY STANDARDS AND
PROGRAMS

NOTICE REGARDING DOCKET TIMELINE AND PROCESS – Phase 1

In the Notice of Proceeding dated June 29, 2020 in the above-captioned proceeding, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA) outlined a three-path process it intends to explore to achieve the reliability and resilience objectives outlined in the Interim Decision dated October 2, 2019, in Docket No. 17-12-03, PURA Investigation into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies (Interim Decision). Specifically, the Authority identified the need to better manage the cost-effectiveness of emerging Reliability and Resilience Programs. Id., pp. 19–22. The Authority identified that clear direction from PURA and the establishment of specific reliability and resilience targets and metrics should enable the electric distribution companies (EDCs) to proceed with reliability and resilience programs more effectively. Id. Further, as reflected in the Revised Notice of Proceeding dated June 23, 2021 and as discussed in the Decision dated January 13, 2021 in Docket No. 18-12-25, PURA Review of Electric Companies’ and Electric Distribution Companies’ Plans for Maintenance of Transmission and Distribution Overhead and Underground Lines, the Authority will also consider through this proceeding the establishment of a standing working group to assist the Authority generally in its oversight of future iterations of the EDCs’ vegetation management programs.

Therefore, Phase 1 of this proceeding will comprise three solutions paths, as follows:

- Path A: An investigation into which current reliability and resilience programs and measures provide the greatest marginal returns to ratepayers;
- Path B: An investigation into new reliability and system resilience programs and measures the EDCs may wish to deploy and the marginal returns to ratepayers of those programs or measures; and
- Path C: An investigation into reliability and system resilience metrics and targets, and associated incentives for the EDCs to meet and exceed those targets.

For both Path A and Path B, the Authority will seek written comments and presentations for Solutions Days and/or Technical Meetings. Phase 1 Path A targets the existing reliability and resilience programs of Connecticut’s EDCs. Accordingly, one or more Technical Meetings will be held soliciting information and presentations from the

Connecticut EDCs and stakeholders knowledgeable of the EDCs' current reliability and resilience programs. Phase 1 Path B seeks new solutions, including Storm Standards, which address distribution reliability and resilience program effectiveness as well as EDC response efforts to major storms. One or more Solutions Days will be held soliciting information from industry experts, including EDCs from Connecticut and other jurisdictions, the United States Department of Energy, and other local/regional/national organizations, detailing best practices for managing and implementing reliability and resilience programs. Phase 1 Path A and Path B will run, roughly, in parallel. Notices for the Request for Information and Technical Meetings/Solutions Days, which will detail the full scope of each, are forthcoming. The tentative meeting dates are presented below.

Figure 1: Tentative Schedule and Outline of Process

Event	Proposed Date	Path
Notice of Timeline and Process Update	June 2021	
Technical Meetings/ Solutions Days (2 days)	August 2021	A and B
Discovery – Written Comments	September 2021	B
Compliance Orders to EDCs – Data Collection	December 2021	B
Issuance of Straw Proposal	February 2022	C
Written Comments – Straw Proposal	March 2022	C
Hearing/Technical Meeting – Straw Proposal	March 2022	C
Interrogatories	April 2022	C
Draft Decision	April 2022	C
Final Decision	June 2022	B and C

Following the conclusion of the Paths A and B Solutions Days and Technical Meetings, the Authority will issue a series of compliance orders directing the EDCs to begin collecting data and reporting metrics to PURA on a frequency to be determined through the proceeding.

Additionally, at the conclusion of Phase 1 Paths A and B, the Authority plans to commence Path C with the issuance of the Authority's Straw Proposal. The Authority will revise the straw proposal to reflect further stakeholder input through a more traditional discovery process, issuing additional Requests for Written Comments and Interrogatories and holding additional Technical Meetings and Public Hearings, as warranted. Subsequent steps may take the form of proposed interim and proposed final decisions in this matter.

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut this 23rd day of June, 2021.

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq.
Executive Secretary